# Elisha Yale Jr. (1763–1840)

## Origin and Family

Born December 8, 1763. Died July 31, 1840.

**Father:** Elisha Yale (1742–1825)
**Mother:** Rebecca North (1743–1825)
**Spouse:** Rhoda Culver (1763–aft. 1800)

**Children:**[1]

1. Orilla Yale (1775– ) (more likely born 1795 - see below)
2. Heman Yale (1781–1825)
3. Samantha (died Age 2)
4. Nancy Yale (1786–1804)
5. Satira Yale (1789–1811)
6. Ruba Yale (1793– )
7. Rhoda Yale (1798– )
8. George Yale (1800– )
9. Maria Yale (1802– )
10. Anson Yale (1805– )

From Rodney Horace Yale[1]: “Elisha Yale of Canaan, Conn. was married to Rhoda Culver. He was a farmer.”

The dates above imply that Elisha and Rhoda Culver would each have been about 12 years old at the time of the birth of their daughter Orilla in 1775. However, there is ample evidence that Orilla was born around 1795:

- In 1800, Elisha had no daughters over the age of 15, providing the best evidence that Orilla was born between 1790 and 1799.[2]
- In the Federal census of 1800, Elisha Yale Jr. of Canaan, Litchfield County, Connecticut, is listed with:[2]
    - 1 son age 16-25 (Heman)
    - 4 daughters under 10 (Samantha, Ruba, Rhoda, and presumably Orilla)
    - 2 daughters age 10-15 (Nancy, Satira)
    - 1 spouse aged 26-44 (Rhoda Culver)
    - No slaves
- Orilla married Andrew Culver of Winsted, Connecticut, and in the 1840 census both she and her husband are listed as aged 40-50 years old. They had a son in the 10-15 year old age group.

This census data, combined with her age range in the 1840 census, implies a birth year for Orilla of 1795 rather than 1775. Heman Yale was thus Elisha’s firstborn, placing Elisha’s marriage to Rhoda in the period 1779-1780.

© Max Brian Yale, 2025

## Occupation

He was a lifelong farmer in Canaan, Conn.

Like his father, Elisha Jr. did not serve in a military capacity in the American Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812. Also like his father, Elisha Jr. had no slaves.[2]

“From early town records we know that slaves once lived in the town of Canaan. Owning slaves at that time was not uncommon. Slavery as it developed in Connecticut was an outcome of the heritage, customs and religion of the people of the colony. A census in 1774 tallied 5,101 slaves in the colony; by 1790 the United States census recorded 2,759 slaves and 2,801 free Negroes. Emancipation in Connecticut came slowly in measured legal steps until the stain of slavery ended in 1848”[3]

## End of Life

Elisha Yale Jr. died July 31, 1840 in Canaan, Conn., aged 77 years.[4]

## Research Notes

**Online Genealogy References**:
WikiTree ID: Yale-730
FamilySearch ID: M32P-FC3
Find a Grave Memorial: 34590731

**Further Reading**:

- Yale, Max Brian. *Guide to the Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection.* 2025

- Yale, Max Brian. *Yale Family Coat of Arms* - Origin and History. *Max Brian Yale Genealogical Collection*, 2025

## References

1. Yale, Rodney Horace. *Yale Genealogy and History of Wales*. Beatrice, NE: Milburn & Scott, 1908. Ref no. 219 p. 161

2. 1800 United States Census, Canaan, Litchfield County, Connecticut, p. 660, entry for Elisha Yale.

3. Town of Canaan. “Town History.” Canaan / Falls Village, Connecticut.

4. Find a Grave Memorial 55811410 (Elisha Yale Jr.)

© Max Brian Yale, 2025